

GENERAL SECRETARIAT.**The Working of the District Boards.**

READ—

Reports on the working of the District Boards during the year 1930-31, received from the Presidents of the several District Boards.

ORDER NO. L. 7880-7901—L. B. 74-31-23, DATED BANGALORE,
THE 27TH MAY 1932.

Recorded.

2. Except in the case of the District Boards of Chitaldrug, Mysore and Shimoga Districts, there was delay in the submission of the reports due on 1st October 1931, the delay in the case of the Bangalore and Kolar District Boards extending over a month. Proper arrangements should be made by the Presidents to avoid delays and to submit the reports on or before the due date.

3. *Constitution, Composition and Working of the Boards.*—Except for a short period of six days in the commencement of the year when the Deputy Commissioner, Chitaldrug, exercised the powers and performed the functions of the District Board in the District, the year under review was the first in which the executive administration of the District Boards was vested solely in non-official Presidents and Vice-Presidents elected by the Boards.

There was no change in the constitution of the boards except for the increase of the strength of the Hassan District Board by one member and the decrease in that of the Kadur District Board by one consequent on the abolition of the appointment of the District Economic Superintendent. As against the total strength of 316 members for all the Boards, there were on the last day of the year 314 members, of whom 212 were elected non-officials and 62 were non-officials appointed by the Government, the remaining 40 being salaried servants of Government. Fifty-seven meetings were in all held by the District Boards, the average attendance being 3·7 officials and 29·2 non-officials for each District Board.

The Standing Committee of the Bangalore District Board met nine times and in other Districts the Committee met on an average only three times. These Committees are not serving the purpose for which they ought to be appointed, *viz.*, the performance of the duties and the exercise of the powers in respect of the District Board matters, similar to those exercised by the Managing Committees of Municipal Councils. With a view therefore to enable the Standing Committee to dispose of some matters independently of the District Board and thus reduce the congestion of work, rules have been issued in Notification No. L. 6911—L. B. 156-30-6, dated 12th April 1932, delegating certain powers under the District Board Regulation to the Standing Committees subject to certain limitations and conditions.

The Agenda of the meetings of many of the Boards is reported to be heavy and it is stated that even with two days' sittings it has not been possible to complete the consideration of the subjects in some Districts. The Kolar District Board has proposed the amendment of the District Boards Regulation so as to allow the Boards to hold ordinary meetings oftener than once in three months. The proposal involves an amendment of Section 29 of the District Boards Regulation, and the views of other District Boards thereon have been invited.

4. *Finance.*—The year opened with a balance of Rs. 2,98,258. The income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 53,95,405 and Rs. 53,64,104 against Rs. 35,36,336 and Rs. 40,93,248 respectively in the previous year as detailed below:—

	Opening balance	Income	Total	Expenditure	Closing balance
		Rs.		Rs.	
A. Ordinary items	13,91,427	..	18,52,736	..
B. Investment account	10,08,304	..	5,52,178	..
C. DEBT HEADS:					
Loans	41,317	..	625	..
Deposits	64,830	..	69,976	..
Advances	82,289	..	78,673	..
Drinking Water Wells Fund.	..	53,624	..	45,117	..
Other items	5,281	..	10,506	..
Total	2,47,341	..	2,04,897	..
D. Railway Cess Tran- saction.	..	17,64,008	..	17,59,790	..
E. Education Cess Tran- saction.	..	9,84,325	..	9,94,503	..
Total	53,95,405	..	53,64,104	..

5. *Income under Ordinary Heads.*—Of the income under ordinary items a sum of Rs. 8,08,760 or nearly 62 per cent was realised from local cess, 8 per cent from tolls, 6 per cent from markets, and the rest from other items. There was a general fall in the income from local cess in all the Districts and the decrease amounted to 10 per cent as compared with the income realised during the previous year. The fall in the income in the Tumkur District was very marked and it was mainly due to the abolition of tolls on carts and less realisation under local cess. This Board having proposed the establishment of four more toll-gates and the levy of fees at 16 santhes, the proposals were approved. Two toll-gates in the District, which were not yielding, were also abolished. In the Kadur District there was a large decrease under tolls and it was mainly due to the abolition of all newly opened toll-gates.

6. *Railway Cess Transactions.*—The total income under Railway Cess transactions amounted to Rs. 17,64,008, while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 17,59,790. A sum of Rs. 6,75,000 was withdrawn from the Railway Cess Deposit in the Tumkur District and out of this a sum of Rs. 6,50,000 was reinvested in the 5½ per cent State Loan and Rs. 25,000 in the Land Mortgage Bank.

In the Chitaldrug District, a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 was withdrawn from the Railway Cess accumulated balances and invested in the 5½ per cent Mysore Government loan. Excluding these items, the income under Railway Transactions amounted to Rs. 5,89,008 while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,84,790. Railway Cess was levied in all the Districts except Bangalore and Hassan and the income during the year from this source amounted to Rs. 3,31,425. The income from Railways in the Kolar and Mysore Districts amounted to Rs. 31,295.

The expenditure on capital outlay amounted to Rs. 8,938. The Kolar District Board spent Rs. 14,900 for the redemption of their debenture bonds and a sum of Rs. 40,000 was advanced from the Railway Cess Fund to this District Board for expenditure in connection with the general purposes of the Board.

7. *Education Cess Transactions.*—The total income and expenditure under Education Cess transactions amounted to Rs. 9,84,325 and Rs. 9,94,503 respectively. The income under Education Cess amounted to Rs. 5,41,483 and a sum of Rs. 4,42,842 was withdrawn from the investment account for meeting the expenditure during the year which amounted to Rs. 4,97,571. The investments made during the year out of

the cess amounted to Rs. 4,96,932. The accounts show that the cess collected during the year in the Shimoga and Bangalore Districts was not invested in the Savings Bank Account as directed in Government Order No. D. 6753-63 Edn. 164-29-2, dated 16th December 1929. In the Shimoga District the cess collected amounted to Rs. 45,129 and out of this a sum of Rs. 44,501 appears to have been paid direct to the Education Department instead of passing the transactions through the Savings Bank Deposit account. The uninvested cess in this District at the end of the year amounted only to Rs. 3,837. In the Bangalore District though a sum of Rs. 55,409 was collected, the sum of Rs. 2,015 only is shown as having been paid to the Education Department. The report is silent as to why the remaining sum of Rs. 53,294 was not either paid to the Education Department or invested in the Savings Bank account. The statement of balances furnished by the President of this District Board shows that a sum of Rs. 56,557 remained uninvested on this account and was utilised for the ordinary expenditure of the Board. The amount at the credit of the Board under service heads on the last day of the year was Rs. 3,01,592 out of which a sum of Rs. 2,21,000 was held up in the Mysore Government Loan Bonds. There was an overdrawal to the extent of Rs. 3,262 in the Government Savings Bank account and a sum of Rs. 1,11,872 remained in Fixed Deposits on the Mysore Bank. The Board has had therefore to depend for meeting their ordinary transactions, upon the uninvested Education Cess Fund and the balance under Deposits and Drinking Water Wells Fund. This is not satisfactory. The uninvested amount must be made good by transferring a portion of the Mysore State Loan Bonds to the credit of the Education Cess Funds. The Fixed Deposit in the Mysore Bank should not be renewed and the surplus amount if any, after meeting all demands should be invested in the Government Savings Bank.

8. *Expenditure*.—The expenditure under ordinary heads amounted to Rs. 18,52,736 and exceeded the income by Rs. 4,61,330. The expenditure includes a sum of Rs. 1,44,000 paid by the Mysore District Board on account of the balance of contribution for the construction of the bridge across the Cauvery near T.-Narsipur. A sum of Rs. 73,802 was debited by transfer adjustment principally on account of interest due for previous years on investment of surplus District Fund in the Chitaldrug District. Excluding these payments, the expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,34,934 and exceeded the income during year by Rs. 2,43,528 or about 20 per cent. The disparity between the income and expenditure is very marked in the Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur and Kadur Districts. In view of the present general depression it behoves these Boards to restrict the expenditure on account of optional items and recurring charges to a minimum compatible with their diminished income. The Tumkur and Kadur District Boards request to be relieved of the charges of the maintenance of some District Fund Roads. In order to give relief to the boards by way of providing funds for improvement of communications, Government have accepted the policy of utilising otherwise the interest on accumulated railway cess and income from Railways which is not needed for immediate expenditure in the District, and legislative action has been taken to give effect to this policy.

9. *Public Works*.—The expenditure incurred on Public Works executed by the Public Works Department and the Civil Department amounted to Rs. 6,98,807 and Rs. 3,34,512 against Rs. 7,08,858 and Rs. 3,75,433 respectively in the previous year. The major portion of the expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department was spent for the annual maintenance of the District Fund Roads under the control of the Public Works Department. The mileage grant for certain Roads in the Tumkur District was raised and special repairs and improvements were also effected. The expenditure incurred in the Civil Department includes a sum of Rs. 1,44,000 paid by the Mysore District Board towards the balance of its contribution for the bridge across the Cauvery near T.-Narsipur. The construction of the Kolar District Board Office and the Silver Jubilee Building at Chikmagalur were the important buildings that were in progress during the year.

The question of having a separate Engineering Establishment for carrying out District Fund Works referred to in para 15 of the Government review on the report for 1929-30 has since been considered by the Committee appointed to go into it and the Government have passed orders negating the recommendations of the Committee in Government Order No. L. 7570-86—L. B. 83-30-51, dated 9—11th May 1932.

10. *Medical Relief*.—There were 192 local fund dispensaries, 155 vaidyasalas and 187 midwives maintained by the District Boards either wholly or in part as against 184 dispensaries, 159 vaidyasalas and 180 midwives during the previous year. A dispensary on a reduced scale was opened at Belagur in the Hosdurga Taluk. In Government Order No. G. 10624-33—Med. 317-29-6, dated 21st April 1931, sanction was accorded to the opening of a new type of a purely district board dispensary and one such was opened at Kebbanahalli in the Mysore District. The midwives attached to the local fund dispensaries attended to a very few labour cases during the year. For the appointment of eight temporary midwives in the Kolar District qualified hands are reported not to have been secured. The Senior Surgeon is requested to take suitable action for securing suitable midwives for the vacant appointments and for popularising the service of midwives in rural tracts.

11. *Vaccination*.—One lakh forty eight thousand seven hundred and seventy seven persons were vaccinated during the year against 1,77,532 persons in the previous year. There was thus an appreciable decrease in the number of persons vaccinated during the year under review.

12. *Vital Statistics*.—The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 96,761 and 73,038 against 1,01,897 and 75,191 respectively in the previous year. The total deaths from Cholera and Plague were 3782 and 5005 against 194 and 7,784 respectively in the previous year. Timely action was taken to prevent the spread of the diseases. The largest number of deaths on account of these epidemics was returned from the Mysore District. Small-pox accounted for 3,310 deaths as against 6,596 deaths in the previous year. In the Mysore District only nine deaths from this disease were registered against 1,209 deaths in the previous year. The Hassan District Board suggests that the registration of births and deaths be made an obligatory duty of Village Panchayets. They complain that the information received from the village officers is not accurate and the figures are not received in time. The village panchayets cannot at present be entrusted with the registration of births and deaths and orders have been issued for the compilation of the statistics in the Deputy Commissioners' Office in Government Order No. G. 3736-54—Med. 82-30-15, dated 10th November 1931.

13. *Sanitation*.—The number of Sanitary Inspectors in the Shimoga and Kadur Districts was raised by five and three respectively. The Tumkur District Board complain that timely intimation is not given to the Board Authorities of outbreak of epidemics by the Revenue authorities and they urge that the Taluk Revenue Officials may be placed under the District Boards so far as this duty is concerned. This is not practicable, but the Deputy Commissioner of the Tumkur District is requested to investigate the remissness complained of on the part of the revenue officers in giving timely intimation of outbreaks of epidemics to the District Board and see that the provisions of rules approved in Government Order No. G. 21371-402—Sany. 101-17-12, dated 25th March 1919, are strictly observed.

14. *Water Supply*.—Three hundred and sixty-seven wells were in progress during the year and of these 128 were completed. In the Mysore District one bore well was sunk at Devanur. The Tumkur District Board urge that the amount allotted for drinking water wells in villages in the State Budget be placed at the disposal of the District Boards. Government regret that the suggestion cannot be accepted as a general policy. Special grants were made to the Hassan and Kadur District Boards for completion of incomplete well works in view of the slender resources of the Boards. The income under drinking water wells fund amounted to Rs. 53,624 while the expenditure was Rs. 39,866. The balance at the credit of the Fund on the last day of the year was as noted below:—

	Rs.		Rs.
Bangalore	.. 19,806	Hassan	...-15,633
Kolar	.. 52	Shimoga
Tumkur	.. 8,979	Kadur	.. 977
Mysore	Chitaldrug

The fund in the Bangalore District was not utilised to a very large extent and the Board should show more progress in the execution of well works. The Hassan District Board should take early action to wipe off the minus balance outstanding under this head.

15. *Accommodation for Travellers.*—A sum of Rs. 46,573 was spent for the maintenance of accommodation for travellers during the year. One hundred and fifty-nine third class Travellers' Bungalows, 220 Musafirkanas and 39 other buildings were maintained for this purpose by the District Boards during the year. The income realised from fees levied for the occupation of these buildings amounted to Rs. 10,217 or 22 per cent of the cost of their upkeep. Many of the buildings are reported to be rarely resorted to in consequence of the increase of the motor bus traffic. The abolition of some of the buildings set apart for the accommodation of travellers and the question of enhancing the rates of fees for the occupation of the buildings engaged the attention of the District Boards.

16. *Audit of Accounts.*—The accounts of all the District Boards for the year 1929-30 were audited by the local audit staff of the Comptroller's Office. No serious irregularities are reported to have been brought to notice.

17. *Balances.*—The balance of the District Boards under service heads at the beginning and close of the year under review were as noted below:—

	Balance on 1st July 1930.	Balance on 30th June 1931.
	Rs.	Rs.
Bangalore	3,81,210	3,02,592
Kolar	—21,841	17,597
Tumkur	3,61,650	2,82,152
Mysore	2,71,393	1,03,803
Hassan	7,893	—26,569
Shimoga	35,519	25,163
Kadur	77,245	32,299
Chitaldrug	1,86,290	1,81,269

The decrease in the balances is large in all the District except Chitaldrug. The correctness of the balance furnished in the case of the Kolar District Board requires verification. A sum of Rs. 40,000 which was given as a loan to the Kolar District Board from the Railway Cess Fund has been treated in the accounts of the Board as an ordinary item of income under service head. Necessary adjustments should be made in the current year's account. The heavy decrease in the case of the Mysore District is mainly due to the payment of the Board's contribution towards the construction of bridges in the District. The finances of the Hassan District Board were not satisfactory and necessary action is being taken by the Board to improve the same.

18. *General.*—The Office of the District Boards of Hassan, Kadur and Bangalore Districts were inspected by the Third Member of Council during the year in the month of February 1931. The action taken in pursuance of the notes of inspection in the case of the Hassan and Bangalore District Boards has not been reported to Government. The Deputy Commissioners of these Districts are requested to see that needful action is taken as regards the irregularities pointed out in the notice.

H. V. RAMASVAMI,
Offg. Secretary to Government,
General Department.